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L31: Entry 1 of 1

File: USPT

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DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6114382 A

TITLE: Methods for treating inflammatory bowel disease

Brief Summary Text (18):

About 20 to 25% of ulcerative colitis patients eventually require surgery for removal of the colon because of massive bleeding, chronic debilitating illness, perforation of the colon, or risk of cancer. Sometimes the doctor will recommend removing the colon when other medical treatment fails or when the side effects of steroids or other drugs threaten the patient's health. The most common surgery is the proctocolectomy, the removal of the entire colon and rectum, with ileostomy, creation of a small opening in the abdominal wall where the tip of the lower small intestine, the ileum, is brought to the skin's surface to allow drainage of waste. The opening (stoma) is about the size of a quarter and is usually located in the right lower corner of the abdomen in the area of the beltline. A pouch is worn over the opening to collect waste and the patient empties the pouch periodically.

Detailed Description Text (26):

In another aspect of the invention, there is provided a method for screening a patient suffering from diarrhea, rectal bleeding, weight loss, abdominal cramping and/or abdominal pain for the presence of IBD. In this aspect of the invention, a feces sample or an intestinal biopsy sample may be collected from the patient and examined for the presence of microsporidia cells and/or mature microsporidia spores. Alternatively, the presence of microsporidia cells and/or microspores may be identified using colonoscopy procedures. Thus, the present invention provides not only methods for treating IBD patients, but also methods for reliably diagnosing patients suffering from one or more of the above-noted symptoms for IBD. This is a very valuable tool for physicians and other health care providers because a wide variety of medical conditions feature very similar symptoms and diagnosis of the cause of the symptoms is often quite challenging.